



There's mystery surrounding the old house on Depot St., barely visible from the street and reached by a narrow lane. Until 1937 it was in the same family, coming down from one generation to another, yet not one knowing how it came into the family except that Elijah lived there.

Tradition both in the family and with neighbors, and held by Henry Fish, a generally accurate historian, was that it was on "Squatter's Land," meaning that the house was built on town land and possession acquired by occupancy. This is plausible as the adjoining land was town owned from settlement days until around 1900, but it is more realistic to believe Elijah got it by purchase and the deed was never recorded.

From Elijah's time on there is detailed documentation for every transfer. His will is explicit

To my son Thomas, \$200 and all my real estate, together with wood remaining in the wood house, etc.

And Thomas is well known to have lived in this very house all his life.

It is a small story and a half house with central chimney but it has a jutting front entry, perhaps of a later date, and one of the smallest stairways ever seen.

The land area was small until the latest owners bought adjoining land when the old railroad was discontinued, so small that it was never really a farm. Each owner had a trade and needed only a small family garden spot.

The Samsons were an industrious family, always making a comfortable living but they "never went in for show," as a descendant once said. They were slow to modernize, content with the old ways. Stoves, kerosene lamps, a pump, and an outhouse were satisfactory into the 20th century.

When the Cohasset and Duxbury Rail Road bought a bit of their land to the east and the tracks ran so close to the house that they could speak to the passengers, they were not upset. It brought a nice bit of excitement within sight, even when twelve trains a day went by.

The house never faced a street, although for many years a cart way that was well travelled ran in front of it. It never had anything in common with adjacent properties and it was smaller than any around it, both house and acreage. On the town owned land was a school house and the school house pond, so near it was practically in the dooryard. Nothing bothered this family. They lived on as their fathers had before them, content and uncomplaining.

The Elijah Samson house, built in 1782, is a small treasure in an almost secret place. Christopher and Deborah Jones are the envied owners.

Dorothy Wentworth, Researcher.